

body—is the Senator from West Virginia, who we are honoring today with this resolution.

Mr. President, I had the good fortune to be a member of a delegation that met in West Virginia with British Parliamentarians. We had the ministers from Great Britain. We had other leaders. We met in West Virginia. After having been there, I understand some of the songs that come out of West Virginia, such as, "The West Virginia hills where I was born, and all is beautiful there."

What I am about to tell the Senate, and even though I was there, I find hard to believe. We had some entertainment, some music—blue-grass music. It was exciting. They asked Senator BYRD, "Tell us a song you would like to hear." And he said, "There are more pretty girls than one." They played that song. It was a great song. I have heard it many times since.

Then he handed out notebooks to the Members of the Senate and to the Parliamentarians. From memory, without a note, he proceeded to recite the reign of the British monarchs, the date they served office, their names, and what they did. That took about 40 minutes or so for him to do, or maybe an hour. The British Parliamentarians were flabbergasted. They had never heard anything like this in their lives. But, as happens in this body, there are many times that we hear things that we have not heard any time in our lives, except from the Senator from West Virginia.

I could tell you about the remarks he made on the Senate floor about the Roman Empire, about which a course at the University of Nevada at Las Vegas is now being taught, using the text of his lectures here on the Senate floor.

Mr. President, the people of West Virginia should know that whether he was leading the debate on the Panama Canal treaty, or other international or domestic matters, that his No. 1 priority has always been the people of West Virginia. It has been a great example for all of us: to be involved in international and national affairs, but to never lose sight of the fact that you are elected by the people from your State and that the people in your State should have first priority. That is the most important lesson I have learned from the Senator from West Virginia.

I express to the Senator, through the Presiding Officer, my affection, my admiration, and my respect, and I hope that, in some manner, my public service to the people of the State of Nevada will be as well-served as the Senator from West Virginia has served the people of West Virginia.

Mr. BYRD addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The distinguished Senator from West Virginia.

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, Plato thanked the gods for having been born a man, and he thanked them for the good fortune of having been born a

Greek. He thanked them for having permitted him to live in the age of Sophocles.

Mr. President, I am very thankful for many things. I am thankful for the respect of my colleagues. My colleagues upon more than one occasion—undoubtedly many of them—have been angered by things that I have said. I am sure they have been frustrated with me from time to time over the many years. But they have always been forgiving, understanding, and most considerate. And I thank them. I thank, of course, the Supreme Governor of the World for having let me live to serve for 50 years the people of West Virginia.

The psalmist tells us, "the days of our years are threescore years and ten; and if by reason of strength they be fourscore years, yet is their strength labour and sorrow; for it is soon cut off, and we fly away." I thank God for his mercy and his kindness and his love, for having let me live to serve the people of West Virginia 50 years.

I thank the people of West Virginia for having demonstrated the faith and confidence in me to reelect me these many times over a period of a half century.

Queen Mary I of England lost the port of Calais to the French. Mary served from 1553 to 1558. She said, "When I am dead and opened, you will find 'Calais' written on my heart." I say to the people of West Virginia, "West Virginia" will always be indelibly engraved with blood upon my heart until it returns to the dust.

I must thank a very understanding and forgiving and considerate woman—my wife Erma—who has served with me these 50 years. I think that our spouses sacrifice beyond what people generally know when we serve in this body. Come next May 29, we will have been married 60 years. I had to have a forgiving and understanding and cooperative wife who was as dedicated to the people of West Virginia as I, to have done it.

Finally, Mr. President, let me thank my staff. I have always been blessed with a good staff. I was once told by the chief chaplain of General Patch's army in World War II that a true mark of genius is to be able to surround oneself with able, committed people. I have had that kind of staff over these many years, a staff that likewise has overlooked my foibles, idiosyncrasies, and has been cooperative and kind and has helped me when I had to walk through the valley of despair—at my grandson's death. They, too, have served the people of West Virginia and the people of the Nation.

I apologize to the leaders for imposing on their valuable time. I know how it works. They have other things to do, other demands are made upon them and other business is there to take care of, other errands to run, and other services to perform, but always there is some straggling Senator who comes to the floor who wants to take some time and talk. But I thank them, and I hope

that over the years, whatever disappointments I bring upon them, I can have the opportunity to make amends and to support them in the good work that they do.

And so I thank all today for the privilege and the honor that have been bestowed upon me by the Senators on both sides of the aisle. I have also been very fortunate in having had two good colleagues in these 38 years. I had Senator Randolph to begin with and now I have Senator ROCKEFELLER, who is a very fine colleague. I could not ask for a better colleague than either of them. Senator ROCKEFELLER has been especially supportive and deferential and kind to me. And so I have many things, Mr. President, for which to be grateful.

HARRY REID has impressed me in the years he has been in the Senate. As a member of the Appropriations Committee, many times I have asked him to chair subcommittee hearings when I could not be there to do so, and he has always done an excellent job.

He, too, is a Senate man. He is dedicated to the institution. I have had many conversations with him. I feel highly privileged to have him as my friend.

Tennyson said, "I am a part of all that I have met." How rich I am in that I am a part of HARRY REID and JAY ROCKEFELLER and TOM DASCHLE and TRENT LOTT.

I thank both leaders again for their consideration in giving me this time. I yield the floor.

#### GRANTING FLOOR PRIVILEGES

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, did the Senator from South Dakota have a resolution he wanted to send to the desk concerning Senator CLELAND?

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, I do have a resolution, and I send it to desk and ask for its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The bill clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 8) granting floor privileges.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, the resolution is agreed to.

The resolution (S. Res. 8) reads as follows:

#### S. RES. 8

*Resolved*, That an employee in the office of Senator Max Cleland, to be designated from time to time by Senator Cleland, shall have the privilege of the Senate floor during any period when Senator Cleland is in the Senate chamber during the 105th Congress.

#### ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I believe we have completed now the customary list of resolutions and unanimous-consent requests. I do have a statement that I would like to make on this opening day, and then I believe the Senator from South Dakota might have some additional remarks he would want to include in the RECORD with regard to